News Release



National Aeronautics and Space Administration Office of Inspector General Washington, DC 20546

> For Release June 1, 2000

Roberta L. Gross Inspector General (Phone: 202-358-1220)

Samuel A. Maxey Assistant Inspector General for Investigations (Phone: 202-358-1233)

Stephen J. Nesbitt Director of Operations Computer Crime Division (Phone: 202-358-2576)

RELEASE: 2000-058

COMPUTER HACKER PLEADS GUILTY

On May 17, 2000, a Montreal teenager, using the Internet nickname of "J0n", pled guilty to eight counts of illegally hacking into computer systems at NASA's Langley Research Center, The College of William & Mary, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and several Canadian systems. The teen illegally gained access into computers, set up password collection software, and installed backdoors for future undetected entry. The Judge sentenced the teen to the maximum allowable 240 hours of community work, placed him on one-year probation, confiscated of all his computers, and required him to give speeches warning students about the "evils" of cyber mischief.

Special Agents of the NASA Inspector General's Office of Criminal Investigations, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted this investigation. The case was handled by Crown Attorney Laurent-Claude Laliberte', Montreal, Canada.